

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed May 16, 2005 has been carefully considered. Within the Office Action Claims 77-82, 84, 86-93, 97, 99-104 and 106 have been rejected; Claims 83, 85, 90, 92, 98, 105 and 107 have been objected to; and Claims 94-96 have been allowed. The Applicants have amended Claims 77, 86, and 99 and have cancelled claims 83, 89, 90, 97, and 105. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 77-82, 84, 86-93, 97, 99-104 and 106 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Iwata in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0026266 to Schena et al. (hereinafter "Schena"). This rejection is respectfully traversed. However, to expedite prosecution of the present application, the Applicants have amended Claims 77, 86, and 99 to include the limitations of the objected-to claims. Accordingly, Independent Claims 77, 86 and 99 as well as their corresponding dependent claims are in a condition for allowance.

Allowed and Objected to Claims

The Applicants acknowledge that Claims 94-96 have been allowed and that Claims 83, 85, 90, 92, 98, 105 and 107 have been objected to. As stated above, Claims 83, 90, and 105 have been amended into their respective independent claims.

Conclusion

It is believed that this reply places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this reply is earnestly solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment not otherwise paid or credited to our deposit account No. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,

THELEN REID & PRIEST, LLP

Dated: 7/12/06

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Bhattacharya', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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